

Speak, my heart is listening!

² ...and I asked them concerning the Jews who had escaped and had survived the captivity, and about Jerusalem. ³ They said to me, "The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire."

Nehemiah 1:2-3 (NASB)

Observation

As we learn to be aware of the problems around us and develop a burden for people, we will begin to hear God speak to us. Many times by simply opening up our hearts and listening to Jesus, we will find direction. Nehemiah began to ask questions about the condition of the people. His questions opened the door for God to speak to him. The interesting thing is, the voice of God came to him through the people around him.

Often, we wait for God to speak to us, but maybe He is already speaking. In this passage, we see that God speaks to Nehemiah through the people who are in need. Many times we do not need to hear the audible voice of God to know what to do. Nehemiah hears the report from his brethren and is able to understand that God is speaking to him. The world around us cries out for help. As believers, we need to hear the voice of God in their cries. We don't need to pray about winning the lost; we just have to have an open heart to listen to the need and respond. Our prayer must be, "Speak, my heart is listening."

Application

What is God speaking to you as you look at the world around you? The question isn't: "Is God calling you to do something?" It is, "Are you willing to take the time and open your heart to listen and hear God's call?" Ask God to reveal how your part in Open: Next Chapter will help meet the needs of the people around us.